

CLAIMS

1. A multi-processor data processing system comprising:
 - (a) the processors of a plurality of point-of-sale terminals, and.
 - (b) a control processor;wherein the said processors of the plurality of point-of-sale terminals are interconnected in a network and are operable, under the control of the control processor, to concertedly perform data processing operations on bulk data, the said bulk data being subdivided into subdivisions of data by the control processor, for processing by the individual processors of the plurality of point-of-sale terminals.
2. A method of processing a bulk data set comprising:
 - (a) operating a control processor to subdivide the bulk data set into subdivisions of data;
 - (b) operating the control processor to send the subdivisions of data to a plurality of processors, the processors being those of a plurality of point-of-sale terminals connected to the control processor via a network; and

(c) operating the processors of the plurality of point-of-sale terminals to process the said data.

3. A method of processing a bulk data set as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the processors used for data processing in step (c) are selected for data processing by the control processor on the criterion that, prior to the commencement of the said data processing in step (c), they were substantially idle.
4. A method of processing a bulk data set as claimed in Claim 2, further comprising sending the results of the data processing to the control processor, from the processors of the plurality of point-of-sale terminals.
5. A method of processing a bulk data set as claimed in Claim 2, further comprising interrupting the data processing of step (c) of a specific point-of-sale terminal on the criterion of that terminal being required to perform a retail transactions.